

# Investing in Education

## Boston Public Schools 2006-2007 Budget

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) budget proposal for the 2006-07 school year invests **\$734.5 million** in the education of Boston's children, a **\$21.8 million increase** over the 2005-06 budget.

The recommendation submitted to the Boston City Council – the result of a collaboration among Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant, the Boston School Committee and Mayor Thomas M. Menino – is designed to address the following priorities in the Boston Public Schools.



### Improve teaching and learning to close the achievement gap.

The budget is designed to support *Focus On Children II*, the district's education reform plan, which sets high standards and high expectations in every classroom of every school so that every student achieves proficiency. The budget affirms the district's commitment to closing achievement gaps among students of different races, economic backgrounds, and educational programs.

### Support English Language Learners and students with disabilities.

BPS offers a variety of educational programs to meet the full range of students' learning needs. Boston schools will expand strategies to support students with disabilities and students whose first language is not English.

### Engage families and the community.

Schools alone cannot ensure every student's success. Families and the community have a key role to play as partners in and out of school. The budget sustains and expands proven strategies to engage families and community members, including the hiring of additional school-based outreach coordinators.

### Invest in people.

The district will increase its investment in its most valuable resource: people. The budget includes funding for salary increases for teachers and other staff, as well as for the rising costs of health insurance and other benefits. At the core of Boston's reform strategy is a commitment to providing new and veteran teachers alike with the professional development to improve their instructional practice.

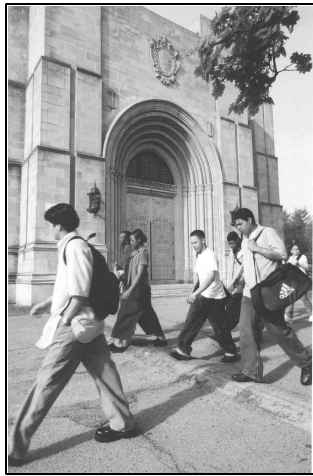


## Expand early childhood education.

Early childhood programs provide youngest students with a strong foundation for social and academic success. To build on the success of Boston's full-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds, the district is expanding Kindergarten 1 (K1) offerings for four-year-olds, with more than 700 new seats created in the past two years.

## Create more K-8 schools.

To provide more continuity from the elementary to middle school years, many families are seeking schools that span from Kindergarten through Grade 8. The district has increased the number of K-8 programs from just three in 1995 to seventeen in 2006, with three additional elementary schools converting to the K-8 model this September.



## Reinvent Boston's high schools.

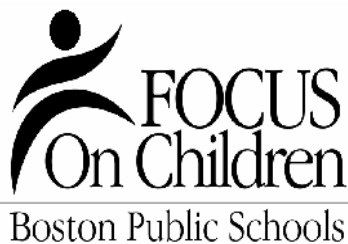
Every Boston student should graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge to succeed in college and beyond. BPS is redesigning its high schools to offer a full range of challenging educational settings – including exam schools, small schools, pilot schools, alternative schools, and comprehensive high schools organized into small learning communities.

## Turn around low-performing schools.

Schools that consistently demonstrate lower rates of performance – including schools not making “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP) – require additional support. The budget provides these schools with increased financial and human resources to accelerate improvement among all students.

## Build on the technology foundation.

BPS remains a leader among urban public school districts in using technology effectively to support quality teaching and learning. The district is now developing a comprehensive technology blueprint that includes updating technology equipment in schools, providing educators with improved access to data and information, creating a professional development model that integrates online learning and digital content, and enhancing communication and collaboration resources.



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